



# News Release

## PRESS OFFICE

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## **BOLTON CANDY COMPANY HONORED BY THE SBA AS THE 2005 JEFFREY BUTLAND FAMILY-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR**

**Hartford** – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has named **Munson's Chocolates** of Bolton 2005 Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Small Business Champion of the Year.

"Family-owned small businesses are so important to our economy," said Charles E. Summers, Jr., New England Regional Administrator for the SBA. "They provide a continuity and long-term benefits that are so important to their customers, their employees and their locale. I salute Munson's Chocolates and Robert B. Munson, Karen F. Munson and James M. Florence for their outstanding achievements."

Ben and Josephine Munson founded Munson's Chocolates in 1946 and originally titled the store "The Dandy Candy Company". With little more than a dream they set out to build a business that would reflect their commitment to quality and service. Their first store was located in Manchester, Connecticut where they made batches of wafers and ribbon candy from the sugar rations they received following the end of WW II.

Few companies can claim that they have been in business for nearly 60 years, let alone many family businesses. For more than a half century Munson's has continued to succeed in the face of countless obstacles from economic turbulence to changing markets. They have not only managed to survive but to become the standard in the industry by which all others are measured. One of the key ingredients of their success is their commitment to producing quality products and innovative packaging. Also, all family members and employees take their responsibilities very seriously, knowing that is the foundation of the companies past and future success. The Munson family, Robert, Karen Munson and James Florence are committed to continuing for generations to come.

One of the things that make Munson's so unique is the depth and diversity of their product line; they manufacture over 300 different items. Munson's now has 10 retail stores throughout Connecticut and is committed to helping their neighbors all over the State of Connecticut. Their facilities range from a 60 square foot store in Olde Mystic Village to a 3,500 square foot all glass round building in Farmington. One of the most popular sites remains the store located at the headquarters in Bolton. Munson's chocolates can also be found in a variety of specialty stores. In addition to small independently owned shops, you will find Munson's in the Mohegan Sun Casino, Foxwoods Casino and in Japan.

The Munson Family is especially active in the Retail Confectioners International. This organization is comprised solely of family owned retail chocolate manufactures. The Munson's regularly speak at seminars and consult with member companies on various issues that effect family business expansion and succession. In addition to consulting with these companies on an International level, they remain active in the New England Retail Confectioner's Association. This organization is also for family owned retail chocolate manufactures exclusively. Bob Munson has held a seat on the Board of Director's of both organizations. Karen Munson has developed and given seminars for both organizations on retail management.

Munson's Chocolates donates hundreds of pounds of chocolate every year to worthy organizations that are trying to raise funds for great causes. The events range from high profile charities like Coaches Against Cancer and the Channel 3 Kids Camp to churches and individuals who are trying to lend a hand to people affected by tragedy. The volume of candy distributed to these projects grows at a tremendous rate from year to year. This third generation company is committed to helping their neighbors all over the State.

**Munson's Chocolates  
P.O. Box 9217  
Bolton, CT 06043**

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*Connecticut award recipients will be honored at an awards dinner on May 14, 2005. If you would like more information on the dinner, or next year's nominations contact (860) 240-4700 or visit [www.sba.gov/ct](http://www.sba.gov/ct).*

*Small businesses have been essential to sustaining our nation's and our state's economic health. Entrepreneurs and advocates play a vital role in the ongoing business development efforts, and their accomplishments are worthy of recognition. The nomination process begins in September of each year and is coordinated by your local SBA office.*

**A complete list of the 2005 Small Business Week award recipients is attached.**

**2005 Small Business Week Award Recipients  
Connecticut District Office**

**Small Business Person of the Year**

Carl Lucchino and Al Lucchino  
Harley Davidson-Buell of Danbury

**Small Business Exporter of the Year**

Todd DiPentima  
Pegasus Manufacturing, Middletown

**SBA Family-Owned Business of the Year**

Robert B. Munson, Karen F. Munson, and.  
James M. Florence  
Munson's Chocolates, Bolton

**Financial Services Champion**

Dennis F. Brown  
Counselor, Connecticut Community  
Investment Corporation

**Minority Small Business Champion**

Reverend John H. Scott, III  
Professor, Gateway Community College  
**State and Regional Champion**

**Small Business Journalist**

Scott Whipple  
New Britain Herald

**Women in Business Champion**

Janet Testa  
Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce  
**State and Regional Champion**

**Veteran Small Business Champion**

Linda S. Schwartz, Commissioner  
Connecticut Department of Veteran  
Affairs

**Sub-Contractor of the Year**

E. A. Patten Company, Manchester  
**Regional Selection**